

August 29, 1945

Mr. Cum Posey
c/o Theresa Hotel
New York, N. Y.

Dear Cum:

You really don't know how very sorry I am because of the misunderstanding concerning Briggs Stadium. In spite of your present wrath I am your friend and would do anything in the world to make you happy and satisfied, but there is something that you don't seem to take into consideration ---- I do not own Briggs Stadium and do not have the final word there, as you must understand.

You were signed in absolute good faith for September 16; so was Birmingham, and at that time you will remember that no mention was made concerning your opponent. You are always so positive and definite in your statements that when you told me in Chicago that you would not play Birmingham, and I had to report that here at the Stadium, Mr. Zeller told me that there would be no game here on that date. He too is emphatic and steadfast in his final statements, and he absolutely controls the stadium, so that closed the books on September 16 for any Colored game.

Philadelphia and Newark had been booked for September 9 since early in the spring. It had been our hope to make the Homestead Grays-Birmingham game the real big closing attraction of the season, and with books closed on that possibility we had to put everything on the September 9 attraction, so when Mrs. Manley wanted to stay in Newark and play you there we thought it okey and swell to take Kansas City instead for that spot because they always draw well here.

Mr. Cum Posey

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Cum, the racial angle and the league angle have not entered into this matter at all. I was never asked nor told to play this or that league team or teams. The fact that this or that game has included this or that league has been entirely a coincident. Not until you mentioned the fact that Kansas City and Philadelphia are or may be owned by whites was that matter thought about. We are striving to present the best possible Negro baseball attractions here at Briggs Stadium. We are not so foolish as to try to solve the race problem in the promotion of these games. There is no amount of pressure that you or I can put on the situation now that might make it possible for you to play here now on September 16. Knowing Mr. Zeller as I do, I understand that only too well.

Very truly yours,

John R. Williams

JRW:NMG

300 copies on
J.R. Williams

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